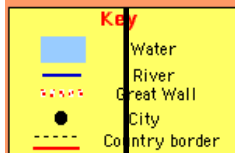
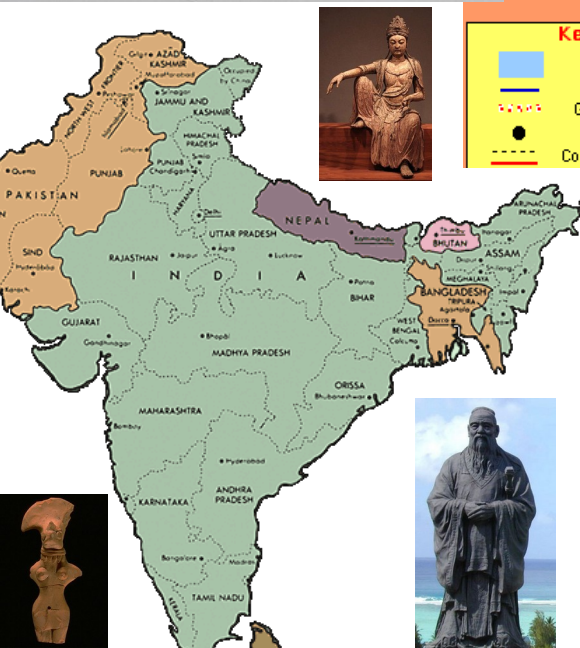
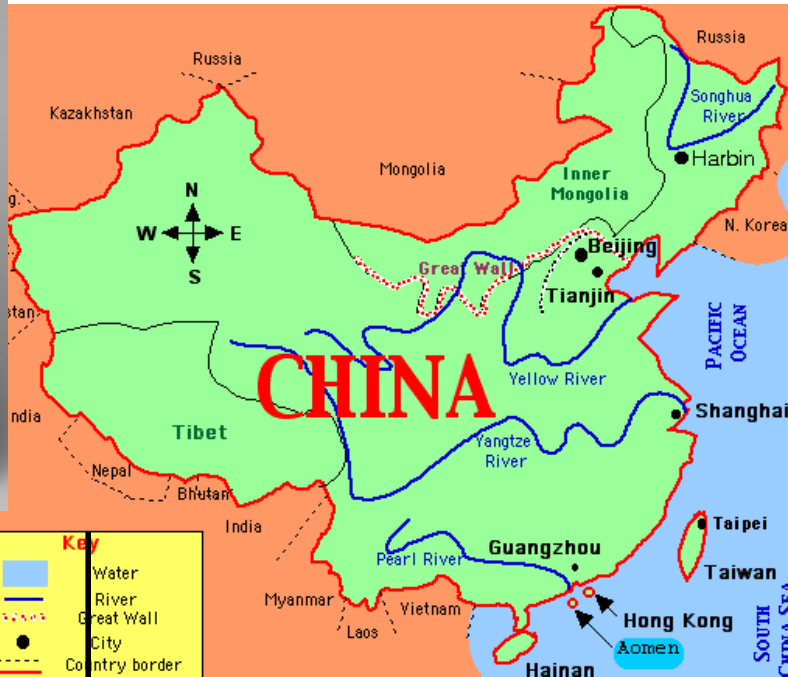


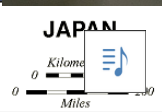
# ANCIENT ASIA:: HIS 219

## UNIT Two



To accompany  
*A History of Asia*

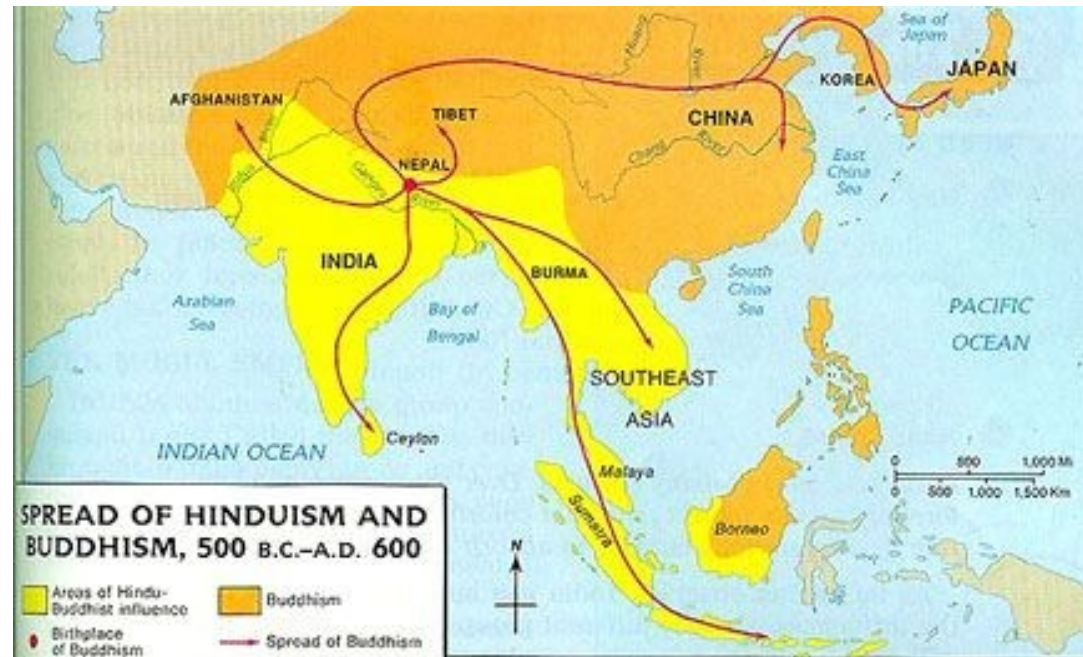
Chapter 2,  
*Asian Religions and Their Cultures*





# Origins of Asian Religion (1)

- India and China are the two great mainsprings of religion in Asia. Hinduism and Buddhism were both born in India, then spread to other regions. Islam came first to India, then spread elsewhere.
- Buddhism faded out in India about 1000 C.E.
- From China, Taoism and Confucianism spread to Korea, Japan, Vietnam.



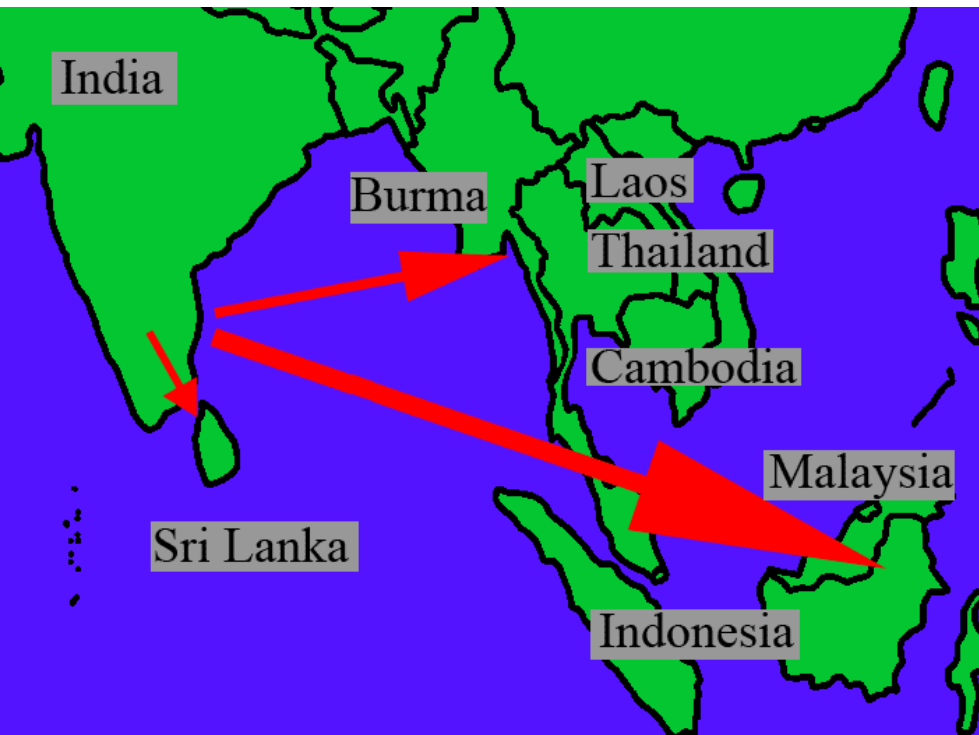


# Trajectories of Transmission

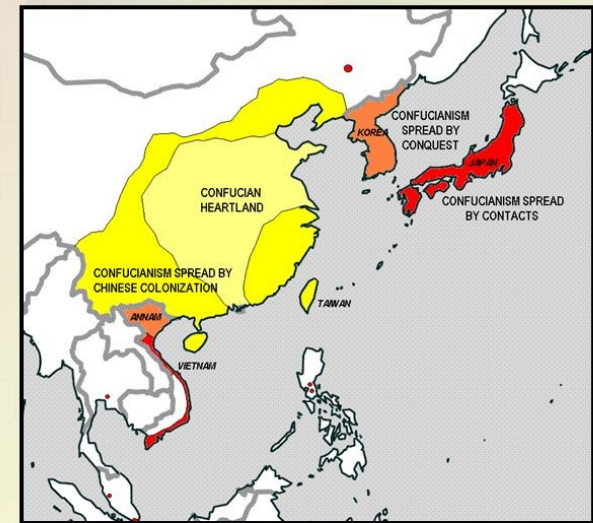
*(of religion, not disease!)*

**Out of India:** First **Hinduism**, then **Buddhism**;  
later, **Islam**.

**Out of China:** **Confucianism**, **TAOISM** and  
**Chinese Buddhism**.



## THE CONFUCIAN WORLD

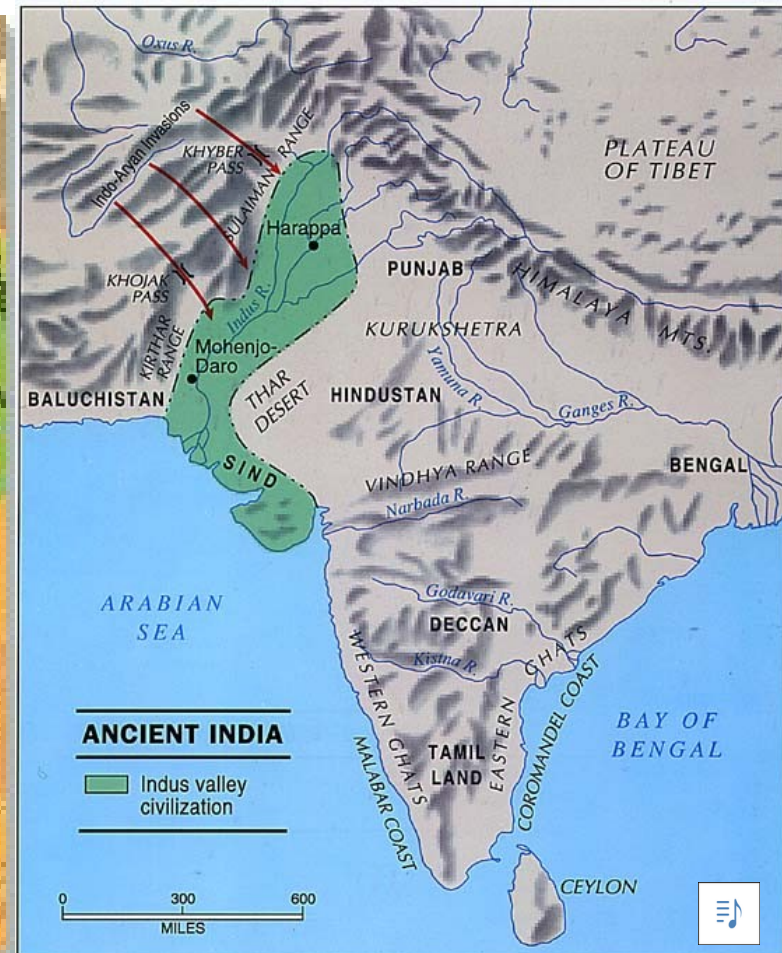


# Starting with India... Birthplace of Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism and Sikhism

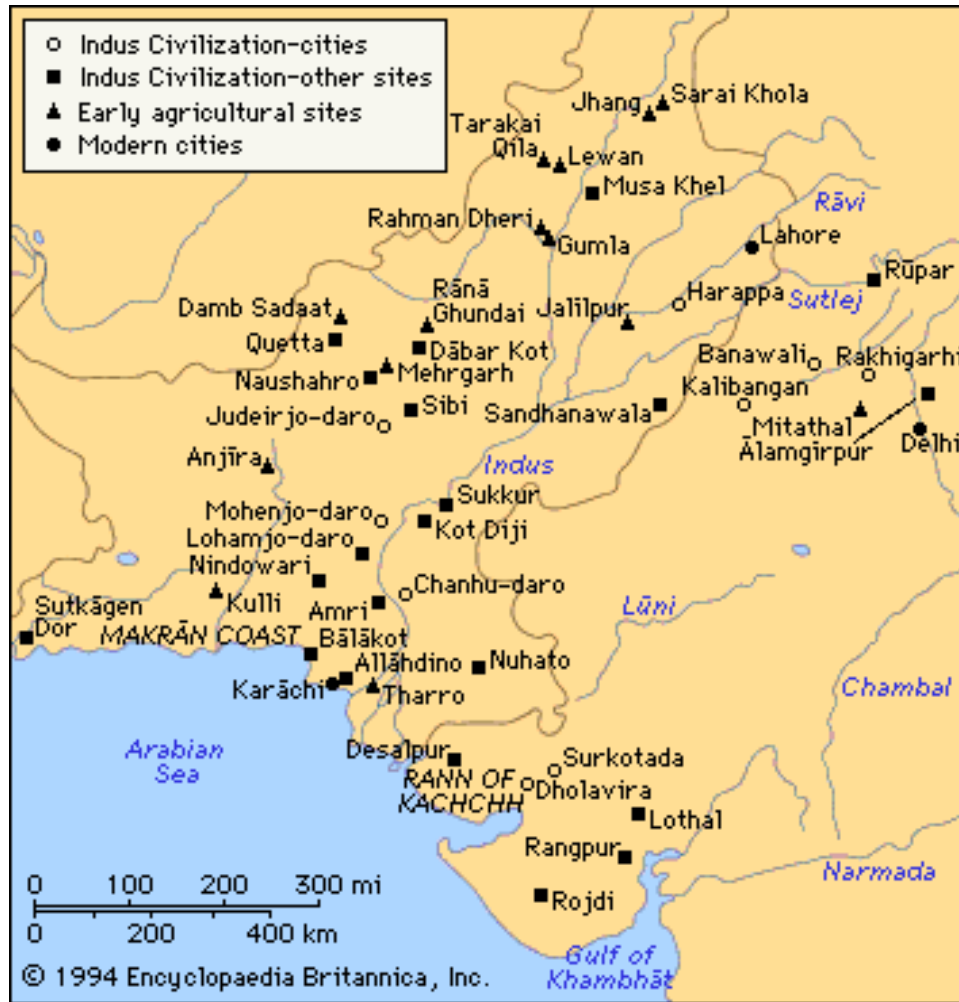




# Oldest Asian Civilization: **Indus Valley Civ.** in W. India/E. Pakistan. Its religion unclear as we cannot read Indus texts.

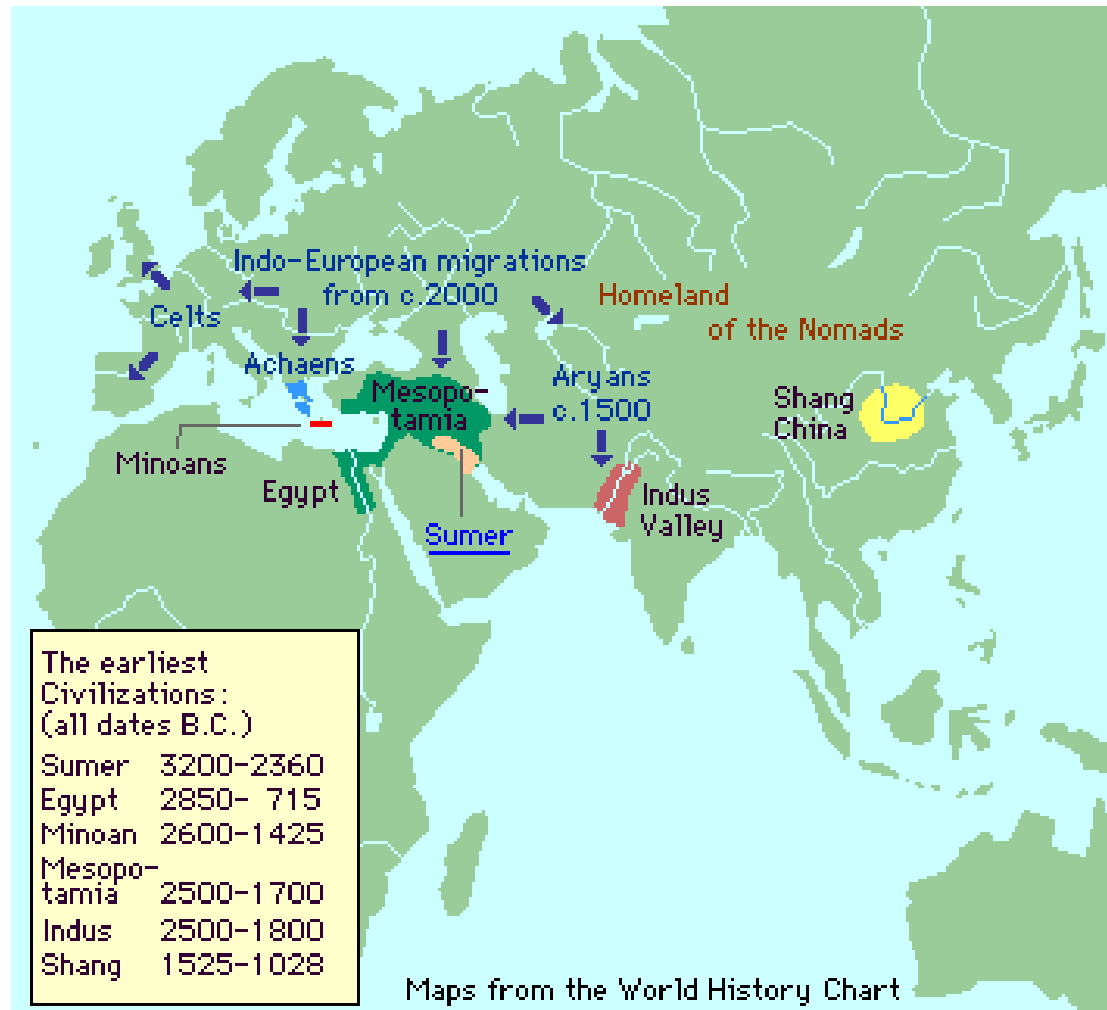


# Decline of Indus Civ. ~2000 to 1750 BCE.



- Cities abandoned, collapse of Indus Civ. ~2000 to 1750 BCE. Why? Theories include....
- (1) “Aryan Invasion”
- (2) Natural disasters such as floods, fires, earthquakes
- (3) Climate change. Hotter weather, rivers drying up, people moving east for better

# Indo-European (“ARYAN”) MIGRATION TO INDIA AT END OF INDUS VALLEY CIVILIZATION





# Indo-European Language Family

- Linguistic similarities between many languages of Europe, including ancient languages such as Latin, Greek, Old Irish and Old Norse, and modern languages like German, French, English and ancient languages of Asia such as Vedic and Sanskrit (of India) and Avestan (of ancient Iran, the language of earliest Zoroastrian scriptures) and modern languages such as Farsi and Hindi led researchers to discover that all these languages, extending from Europe to India, are related, hence the **Indo-European language family**, coming from a common root language **\*Proto-Indo-European (PIE)**. PIE is the hypothetical reconstruction of this original parent language from which the later languages come. It is believed that the original PIE-speakers had a common culture and civilization in the approximate area of Southern Russia near the Black Sea and the Caucasus mountains in the period of 4000-2000 BCE, after which time different groups split off in different directions, some going West into Europe, some East into Iran and India, and some South into the Middle East.
- These Indo-Europeans were warlike and aggressive, using horses and chariots to raid or conquer other peoples. Their



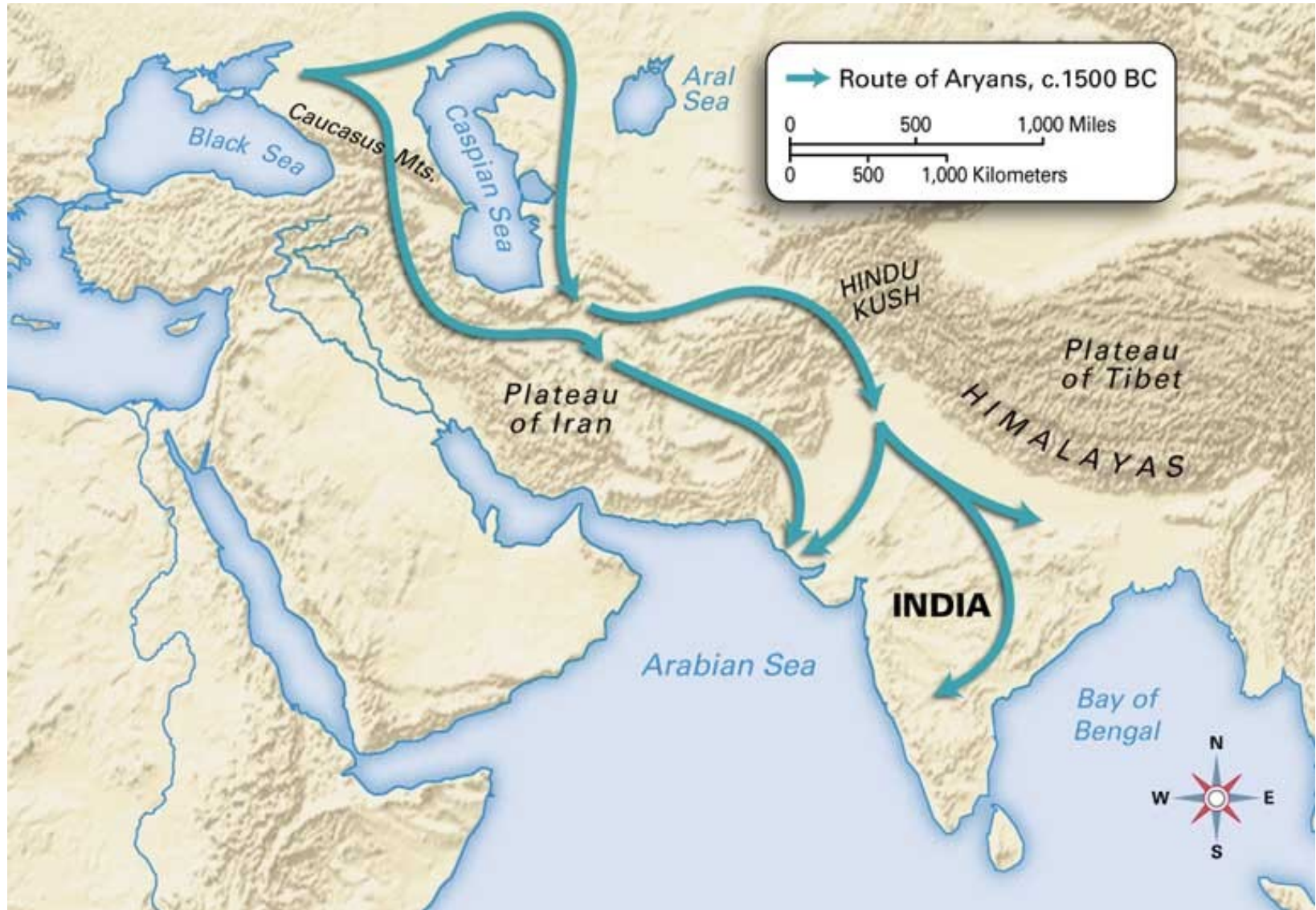
# Some Indo-European Linguistic Parallels

| English word                          | Latin     | Sanskrit   | other                   |
|---------------------------------------|-----------|------------|-------------------------|
| • father                              | pater     | pitar      | fathir (Old Norse/ON)   |
| • mother                              | mater     | matar      | mothir (ON)             |
| • progeny<br>• (offspring)            | progenies | praja-     |                         |
| • widow                               | vidua     | vidhava    | vdova (Russian)         |
| • cow                                 | buos      | gau        | kyr (ON)                |
| • (bovine)                            |           |            |                         |
| • equine                              | equus     | ashva      |                         |
| • (horse)                             |           |            |                         |
| • mind/mental                         | mens      | manas      | munr (ON)               |
| • voice                               | vox       | vach       |                         |
| • name                                | nomen     | naman      | nafn (ON)               |
| • king, `one who<br>• <i>reigns</i> ' | rex       | raj        | ri (Old Irish) rig (ON) |
| •                                     |           |            |                         |
| • fire (ignite)                       | ignis     | agni (god) | ugnis (Lith.)           |





# Full-scale “Aryan Invasion” unlikely, but some “Aryan Migration” quite likely





# Ganges River area



# Stages/Types of Hinduism

Basic sequence: **Vedic** >> **Upanishadic** >> **Classical Hinduism**

Type of religion: **Sacrificial** >> **Ascetical** >> **Devotional**

Main Texts: **Rig Veda** >> **Upanishads** >> **Epics, Gita, Puranas**

Main Practices: **sacrifice** >> **meditation/yoga** >> **emotional worship**

**yajna** >> **tapas** >> **puja + bhakti**

Approximate

Time Periods: **1200-800 BCE** >> **800-200 BCE** >> **200 BCE to present**

**Note:** all three types of Hinduism still exist today, but devotional *bhakti* worship, with *puja* offerings, is the dominant form of practice.



# Basic Hinduism (I)

- Not in the Vedas, but in the *Upanishads*, more philosophical, introduce concepts of karma (past actions determine future conditions), *samsara* (cycle of life > death > rebirth > re-death), *moksha* (liberation from *samsara*) by spiritual disciplines like *yoga*
- Earliest texts, collections of myths known as *vedas*, mainly mythological, most important = the *Rig-veda*. *Purusha* creation myth.
- Early Vedic religion stresses rituals of sacrifice to please gods and gain entrance to afterlife



# Basic Hinduism (II)

- Around 200 BCE, new trend to simplify worship and discipline, stressing *bhakti*, loving devotion to gods, and *puja*, simple, sincere offerings. This becomes dominant form of Hinduism.
- Other key concepts:  
*Atman*, the eternal self/spirit in each person;  
*Brahman*, the eternal self or basis of all existence, with Upanishads teaching *Atman = Brahman*, both connected at deepest level
- 4 Goals of Life: *kama* (love and pleasure), *artha* (wealth), *dharma* (duty) and *moksha* (liberation, like nirvana).
- *Dharma*: “duty” of each person within larger social order, related to caste system
- 4 Stages of Life: student >> house holder w/family>> at-home renunciant >> total renunciant (gives up all, living on charity)
- Few Hindus practice all 4 stages but it provides a road map for life





**Main gods and goddesses of Hinduism.** Most of their myths are recorded in the two great epics (the *Ramayana* and the *Mahabharata*) and *Puranas* (much later mythological texts c. 900 CE), also *Rig Veda*

- *Shiva* and *Parvati* protect good, with many aspects: gods of sex, slay and fertility, yet the king of life (not of *Banahayata*), *Kesava* (playful god of the slaying demon, *Parvati* his wife kings), with Rama and Krishna worshipped also
- *Ganesha*, elephant-headed god of scholarship and study, son of *Sakti*
- *Sakti* (*Parvati*) wife of Vishnu, goddess of wealth
- *Kali* and *Durga* goddesses of goddesses, who slay demons and drink blood from animal sacrifices, sometimes more powerful than male gods
- *Hanuman*, monkey god, super strength, leaps across oceans to Sri Lanka, god of prayers and fire, assoc. with sacrificial fire
- *Yama*, god of the dead, *Rig Veda* fades out later



# North India 500 BCE



# Indus Valley Civ. to Vedic India: Progress or Regression?

- The new Vedic-Aryan culture and lifestyle that developed in India after the end of the Indus Valley Civ. was in many ways *less* sophisticated, a step *backwards*
- The Indus Civ. had cities, advanced architecture, agriculture, and trade, textile manufacturing and even a rudimentary form of plumbing
- The new Vedic peoples were tribal pastoralists —animal-breeders—who lived in small villages w/o large structures or much techno. sophistication
- They were “cowboys” in a “Wild, Wild East” who measured their wealth in cattle and highly valued both warfare and religion; they were both warlike and pious



# Purusha Hymn (Creation Myth)

## Rig Veda X.90

- A thousand heads hath Purusha, a thousand eyes,  
a thousand feet.  
Covering the world all around, he yet exceeds it  
on all sides.  
This Purusha is all that yet hath been and all that  
is to be;  
The lord of immortality as well as of creatures  
who grow by food.
- So mighty is his greatness; yea, greater than all  
creation is Purusha.  
All creatures together are but one-fourth of him,  
three-fourths of him is eternal and in heaven.  
With three-fourths Purusha went up: one-fourth of  
him again was here.



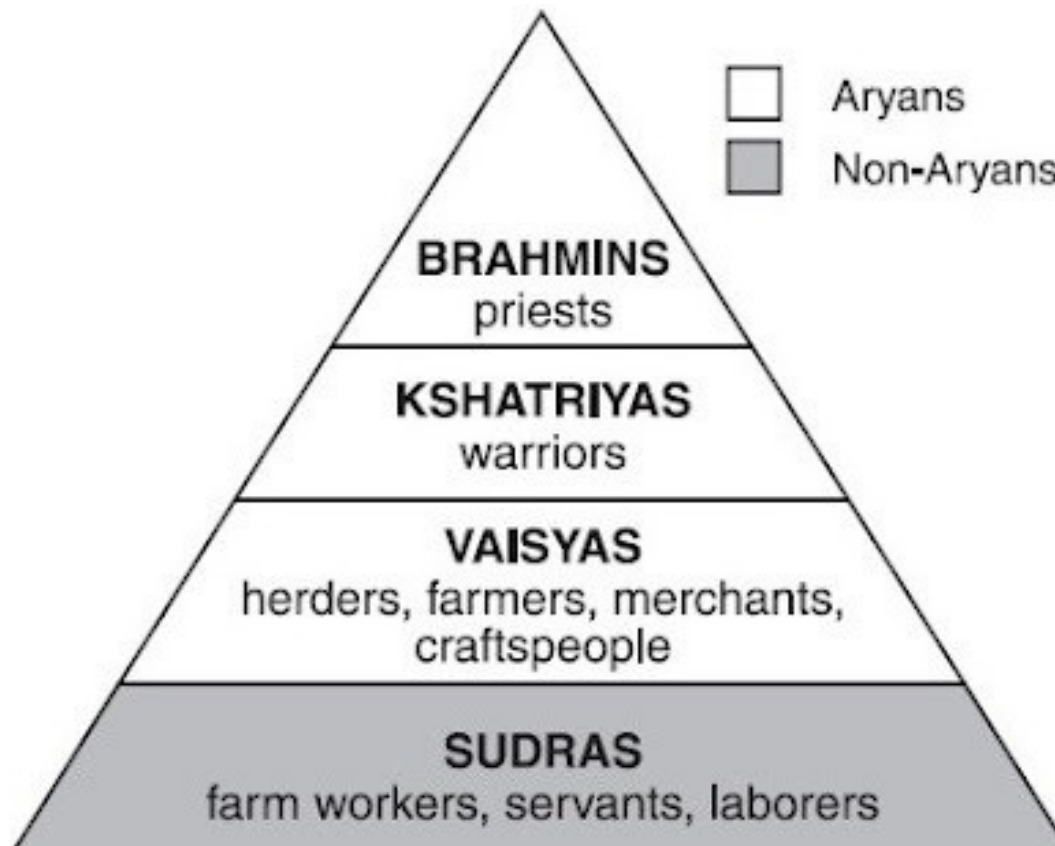


# The Purusha Hymn (Creation Myth) (Rig Veda X.90) Pt. 2

- When they divided Purusha, how many portions did they make?  
What do they call his mouth, his arms? What do they call his thighs and feet?
- The priests were his mouth, of both his arms were the warriors made.  
His thighs became the merchants, from his feet the workers were produced.  
The moon was gendered from his mind, and from his eye the sun had birth. ...
- Storms and fire from his mouth were born, and wind from his breath,  
From his navel came mid-air; the sky was fashioned from his head;  
Earth from his feet, and from his ear the regions.  
Thus they formed the worlds. ...



# The Indian Caste System



# Indian caste system: social hierarchy from Vedic times onwards

- Highest caste: The Brahmins (priests), from the head/mouth of Purusha
- Second highest: The Kshatriya (warriors and rulers), (AKA Rajanya), created from the arms of Purusha
- Third highest: The Vaishya (merchants, farmers, producers) from thighs/genitals
- Lowest rank: Shudras (servants) from feet of Purusha



# Hindu Gods: **Shiva**, god of mystical knowledge and world destruction





**Vishnu**: the god of many forms  
(avatars) that he takes on to save the  
world and serve humanity





# Krishna as a Child



# Krishna and Radha



**Krishna and Arjuna** before the great battle in the *Mahabharata*; also in the *Bhagavad Gita*

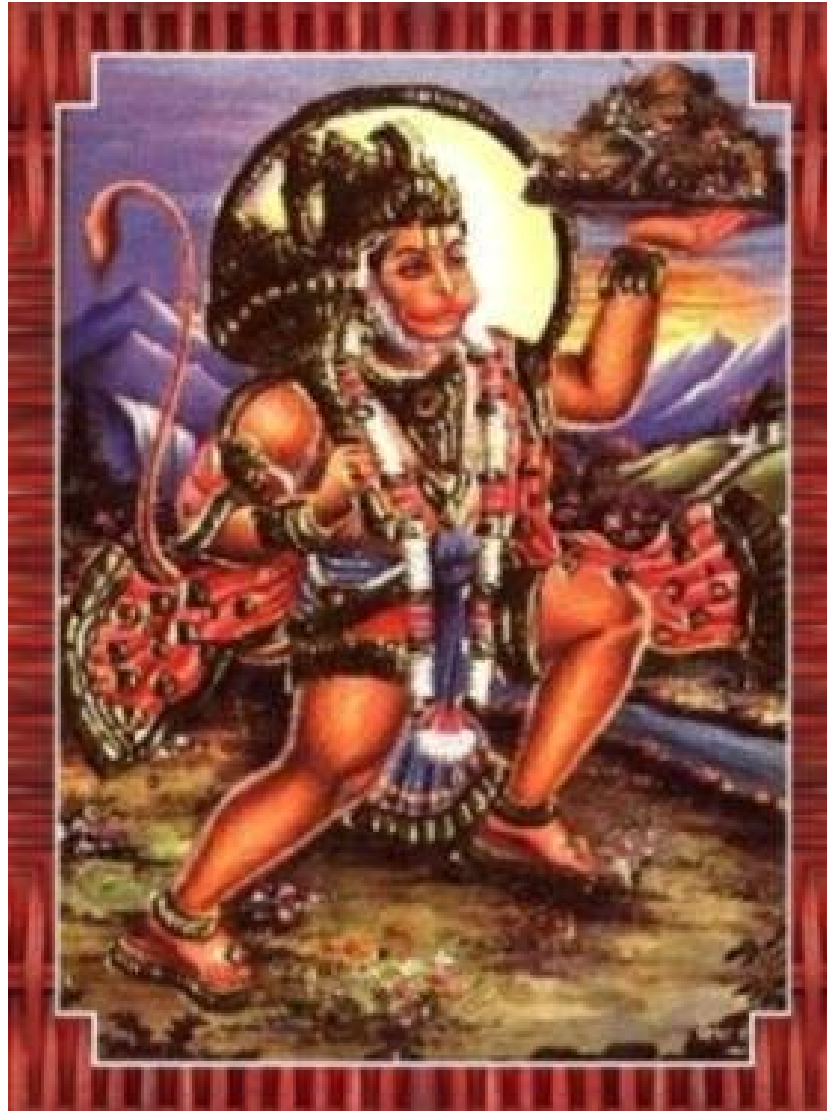


# Sarasvati, Goddess of Wisdom





# Hanuman, the Monkey God



# Durga, the Fierce Goddess



# The Goddess Kali

(also a wee bit ferocious)





# Gupta period images of Buddha and THE Hindu god Vishnu



# Reasons for the Rise of Buddhism

- As India again became an advanced urban civilization ~1000-500 BCE, new religious thinking developed.
- Inside Hinduism, this was the new ways of the *Upanishads*—but there was also the new rival faith of Buddhism (and also Jainism)
- People were ready for a change from Hinduism, which some felt had become corrupt with greedy priests and a cruel caste system
- Buddhism rebelled against Vedic sacrifice, Brahmin priests, and caste too, and offered a spiritual path open to all





# Basic Teachings of Buddhism

The Buddha DID NOT believe in:

1. Suffering is inevitable
2. Suffering is caused by desire and by ignorance, which keep us trapped in reincarnation
3. The Afterlife and the Supernatural
4. Suffering can be overcome by eliminating its cause
4. The Eightfold Buddhist path is the way to eliminate desire and ignorance. The Path involves control of behavior, thoughts, emotions, and concentrated meditation to still the mind and realize deeper nature of reality.
5. Karma + reincarnation
6. Higher levels of consciousness
7. Liberation through self-discipline and self-effort
8. Living in monastic community
9. *Anatman (Anatta)*: No-self, no permanent self or soul, all is change; key realization



# All About the Buddha

**563-480 BCE** **Life of Siddhartha Gautama, the Buddha**  
According to legend, he is born, prince of the Sakya kingdom in N. India, grows up in luxury, sex etc., without moving Buddha: like sick man, temptation of desires by Satan, but older, may be source of this part of legend story  
Buddha lived on 45 years after his Enlightenment, teaching his philosophy and forming first Sangha (community of monks). His sermons collected as *Sutras* and his rules for monks became the *Vinaya*. At first did not allow women into Sangha, but finally relented. Died from bad food.  
Final words: **"Work out your own salvation with diligence."**

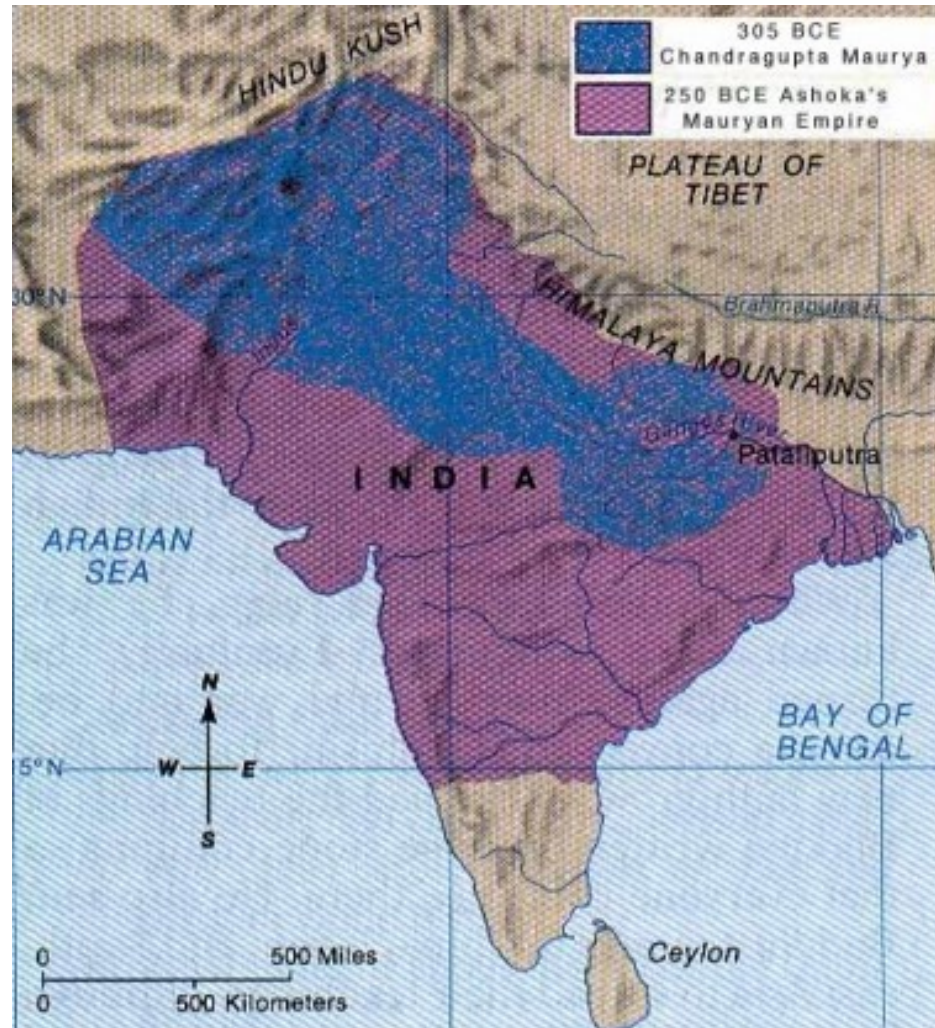


# Two Sides of Buddhism

- **Mahayana Buddhism**
- Oldest form
- Focus on strict disciplines, monks in monasteries
- Buddha revered as teacher not god
- Complete salvation (Nirvana) for the select few; supernatural beings
- Salvation possible for anyone
- Prevalent in Sri Lanka, Thailand
- Dominant in China, Japan, Korea, Tibet

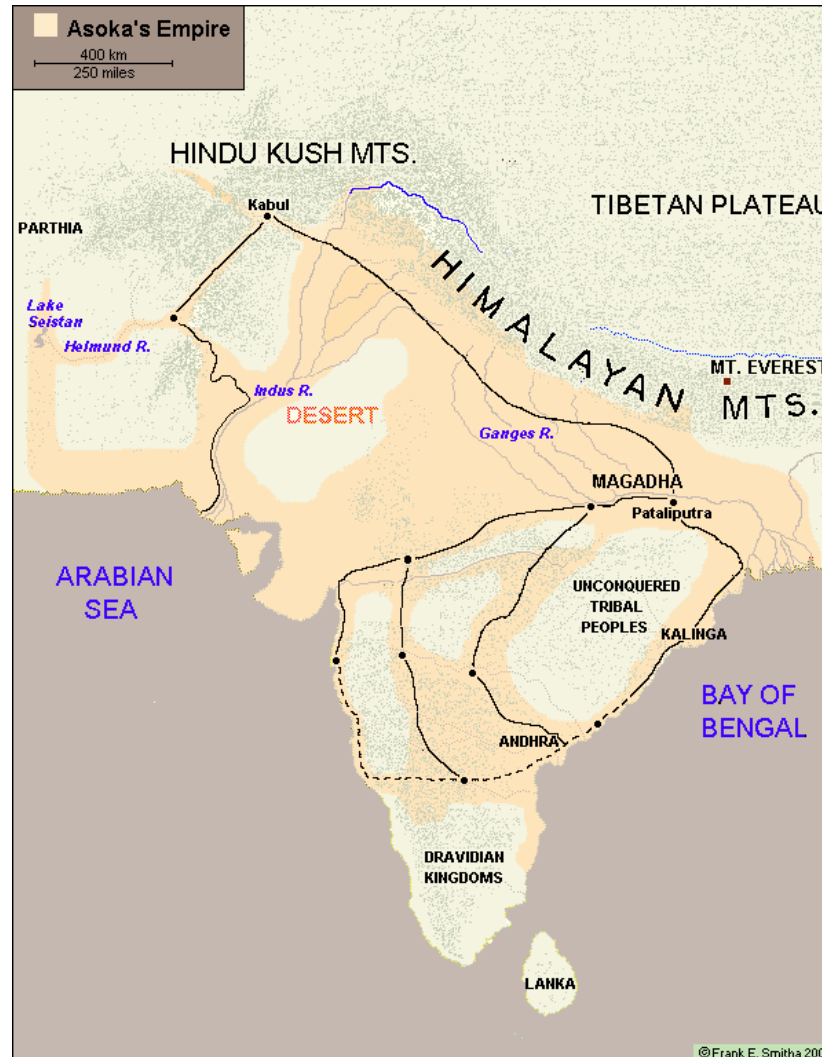


# Mauryan Empire (326-184 BCE), reign of Ashoka (269-232 BCE)





# Pataliputra, GLORIOUS CAPITAL OF THE Mauryan Empire



# Ruins of Pataliputra



# India in 500 BCE and 250 BCE





# Ashoka's pillars





## Flag of modern India.

Symbol in center is Buddhist wheel of dharma, from pillar of Ashoka in ancient Indian city of Sarnath



# An Edict of Ashoka

*Ashoka had “edicts” (royal decrees) inscribed on rocks and on metal pillars (great technological achievements in their own right) across Mauryan India. Here is one explaining his conversion to Buddhism and rejection of war and violence.*

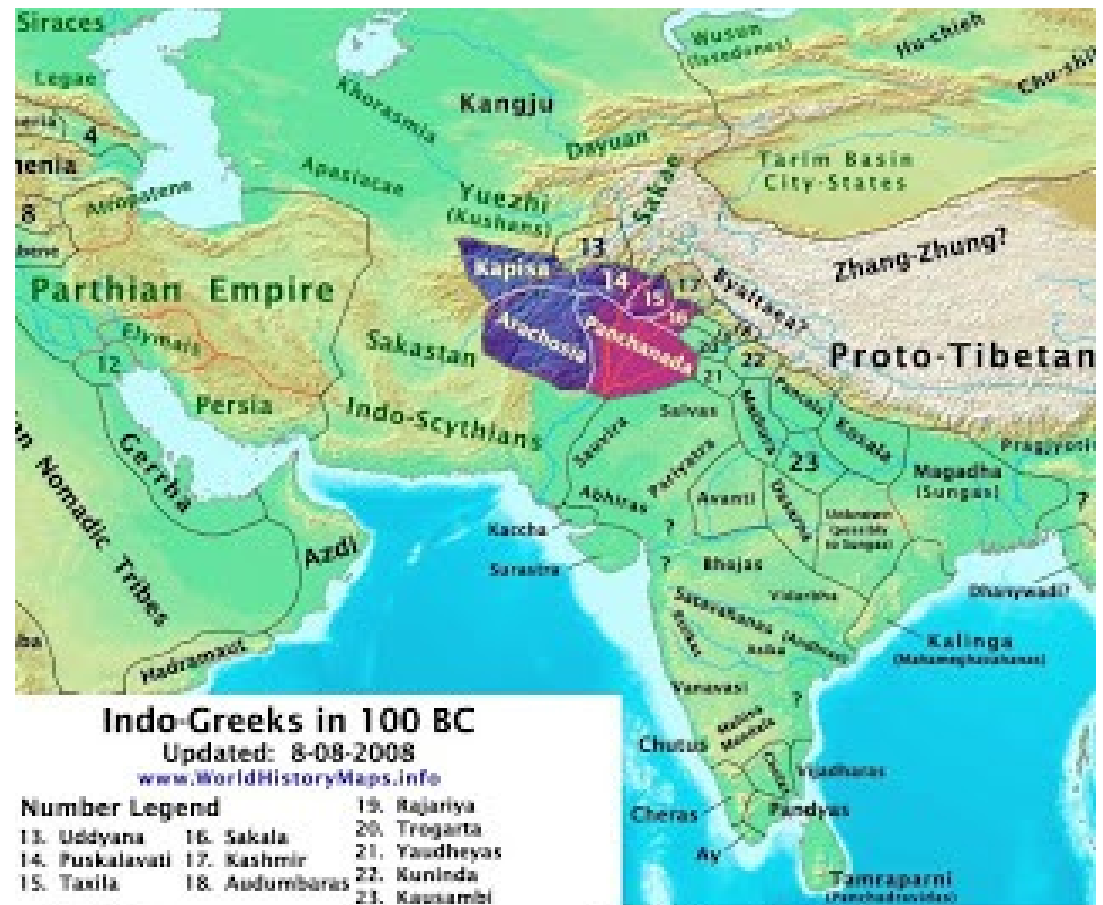
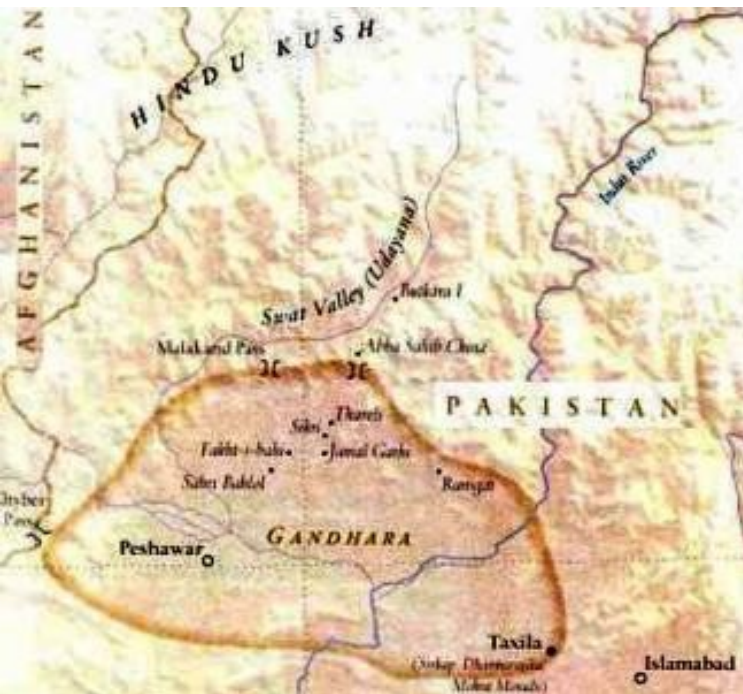
“When the king of gracious bearing and Beloved of the Gods had been consecrated eight years, Kalinga was conquered. 150,000 were taken captive, 100,000 were killed, and many more died. After the taking of Kalinga, the Beloved of the Gods [Ashoka] began to follow righteousness, to love righteousness, to give instructions in righteousness.

“When an unconquered country is conquered, peoples are killed... This, the Beloved of the Gods finds very pitiful and grievous...If anyone does him wrong, it will be forgiven as far as it can be forgiven...The Beloved of the Gods considers that the greatest of all victories is the victory of righteousness.”

*Ashoka’ royal seal is on the flag of India today, tribute to how much he is respected as one of India’s greatest leaders across its long history.*



Greek-influenced area of India (modern Pakistan),  
 due to conquests of Alexander the Great: **Gandhara**,  
 during and after the Mauryan Empire



Talesman's Atlas of World History



# Buddha: India, Gandhara period

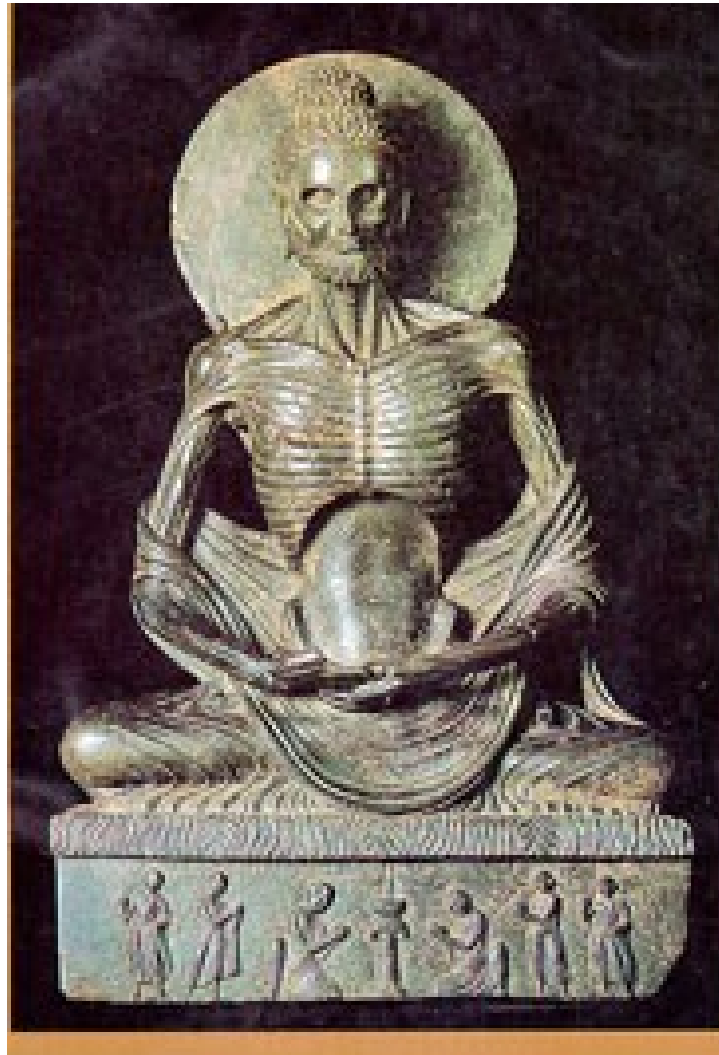




# Gandhara Art: Sitting Buddha



# Gandhara Art: Fasting Buddha



# Gandhara Art: Head of Buddha

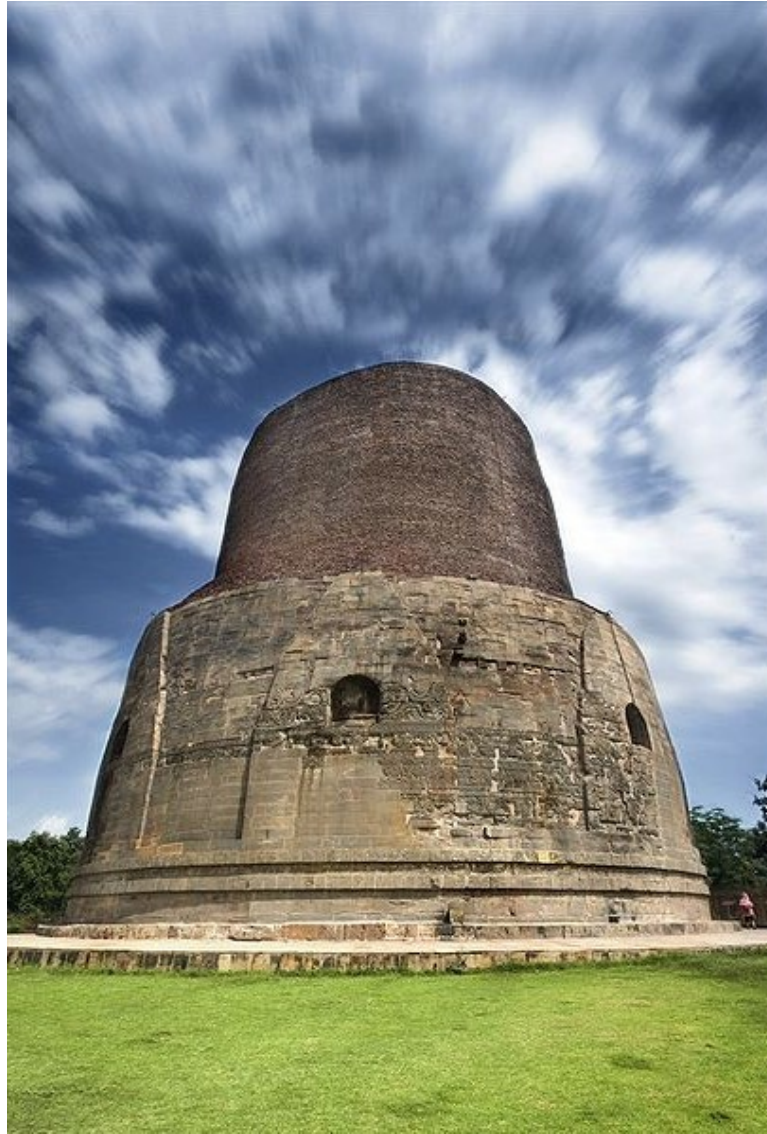


# Gandhara Art: Death of Buddha





# Dhamekh, a *Stupa* (reliquary mound for Buddhist relics) at Sarnath, India



# Stupa at Kushinagar, marking spot where the Buddha was cremated





# Wall of Dhamekh Stupa



# Kushana Empire (40-220 CE)





Gold coin with image of Kanishka, in heavy armor, holding a spear in one hand, making a sacrifice with the other, flames rising from his shoulders (in a good way.) Writing is in modified Greek script, showing Greco-Bactrian influence. Other coins from his reign show Iranian and Sumerian deities along with Greek and Indian ones, a true Silk Road mix of religions and cultures from across a vast domain.





# Stages/Types of Buddhism I:

## *Theravada*

The Buddha's teachings, called the *Sasana*, were supported by the people (with a shero), so would be taken on by the 'Buddhist' from monks', spirit and progress; Thailand, Burma, Cambodia, Laos and Sri Lanka.

Monks chant Buddhist scriptures (*Sutras*) and study Buddhist or nun, as a monk (*Dhamma*) Sangha.

Buddhist's take refuge in Faith/Greed/Devotion as the 'Three Jewels' lay Buddhist's worshipped Buddha like god, and *Stupas*, tombs of

- **I take refuge in the Buddha.** Buddha relics became places of worship.

This set stage for Mahayana Buddhism to develop c. 100 BCE.

- **I take refuge in the Dharma (the teachings of the Buddha.).**

- **I take refuge in the Sangha (Bud. monastic community).**



# Stages/Types of Buddhism II:

## *Mahayana*

**Mahayana Buddhism** is more mythological than Theravada, but believed in worship of multiple Buddhas and Bodhisattvas, much like Hindu gods. Ordinary people could achieve enlightenment without joining a monasteries.

Two meanings of *Bodhisattva*:

Mahayana could easily blend with local religions, take in native gods/goddesses as Bodhisattvas.

1. A person who takes vow to work for enlightenment of all living beings, postpone one's own

Mahayana, dominant form of Buddhism in China, Korea, Japan;

2. Supernatural being who also strives to help others

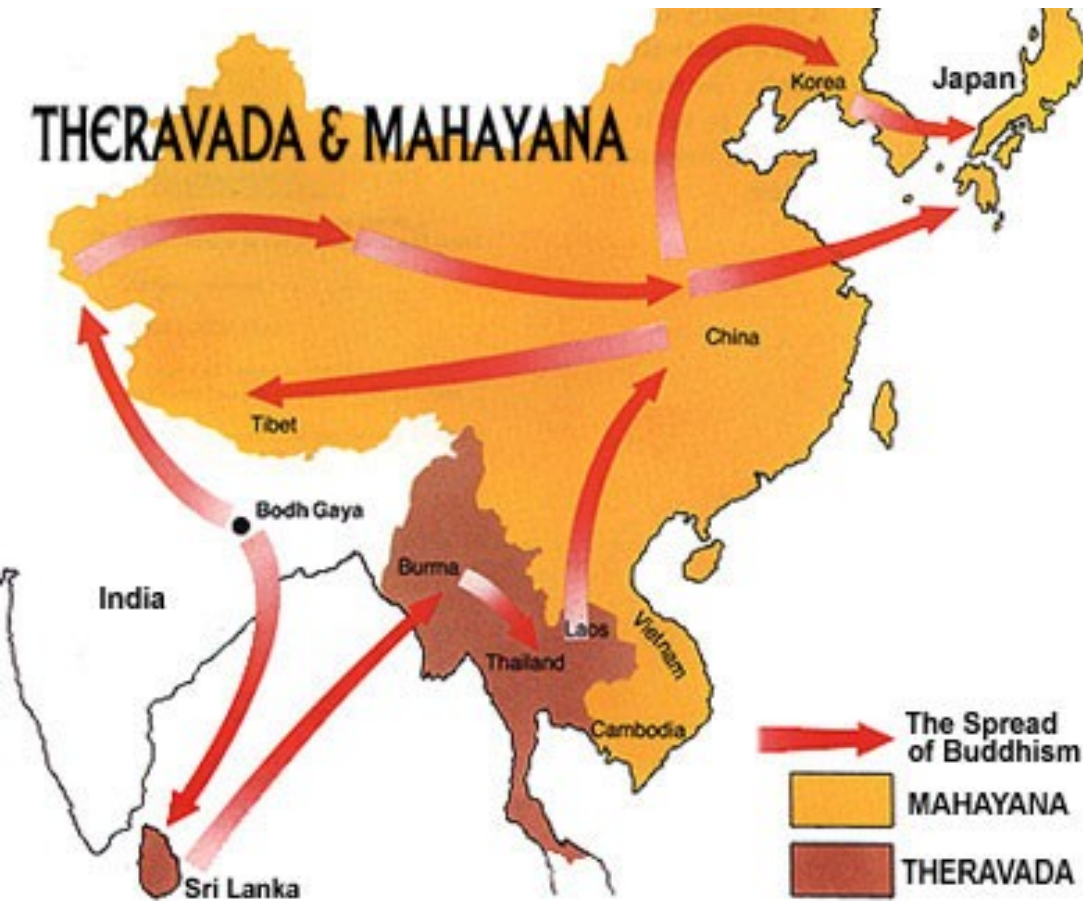
related form *Vajrayana* in Tibet.

In Mahayana, anyone can take vow and become Bodhisattva, while also praying to divine Bodhisattvas for aid.

**Zen Buddhism** (*Ch'an* in China, *Seon* in Korea) also from Mahayana, with influence from Taoism.



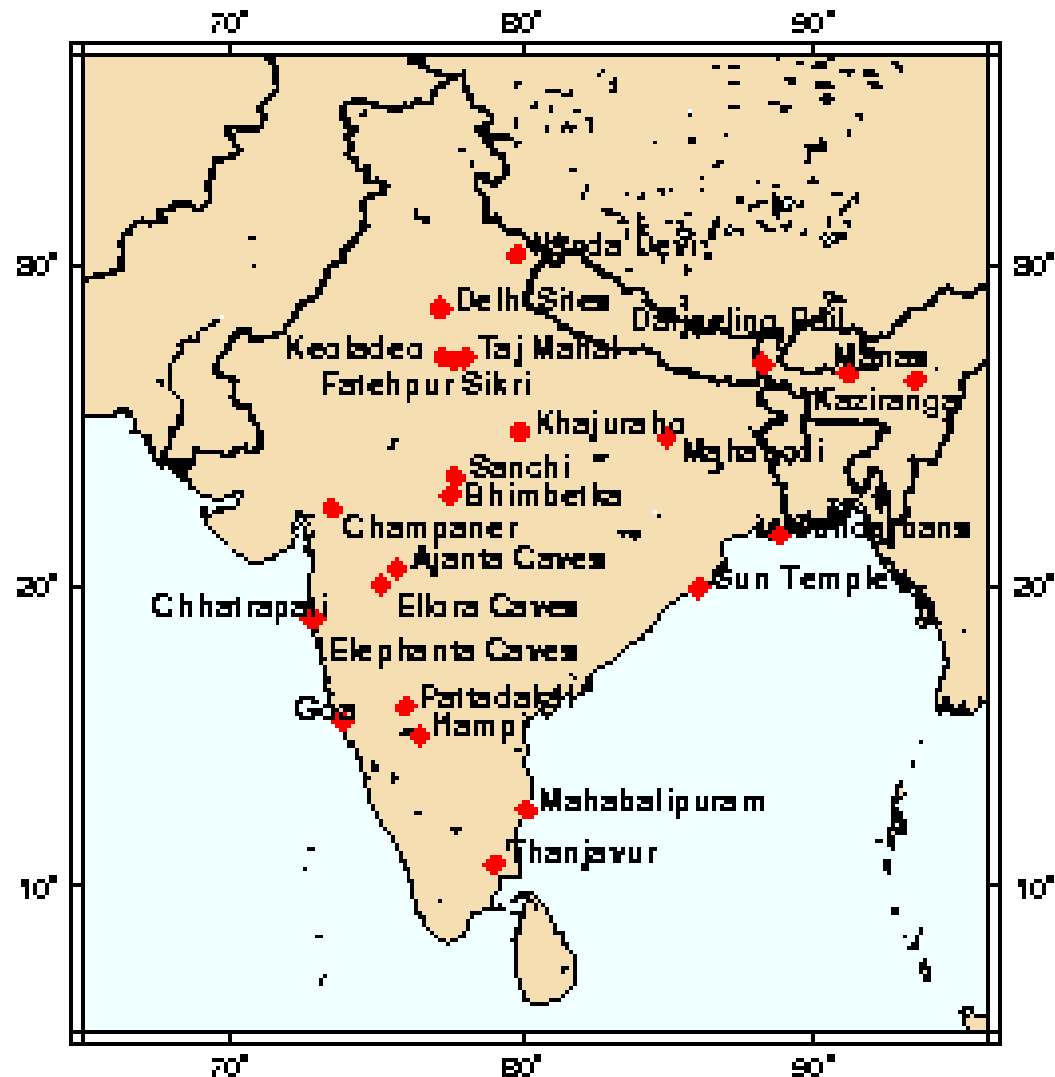
# Two Main Branches of Buddhism: Theravada and Mahayana (and Zen)



- Theravada, the older branch of Buddhism, became dominant in Sri Lanka and Southeast Asia.
- Mahayana flourished in Tibet, China, Korea and Japan. Merging with Taoism, it became *Chan* Buddhism in China, *Seon* in Korea, and *Zen* in Japan



# Map showing Ajanta and Ellora, site of spectacular cave temple art





# View of Ajanta Caves from a distance

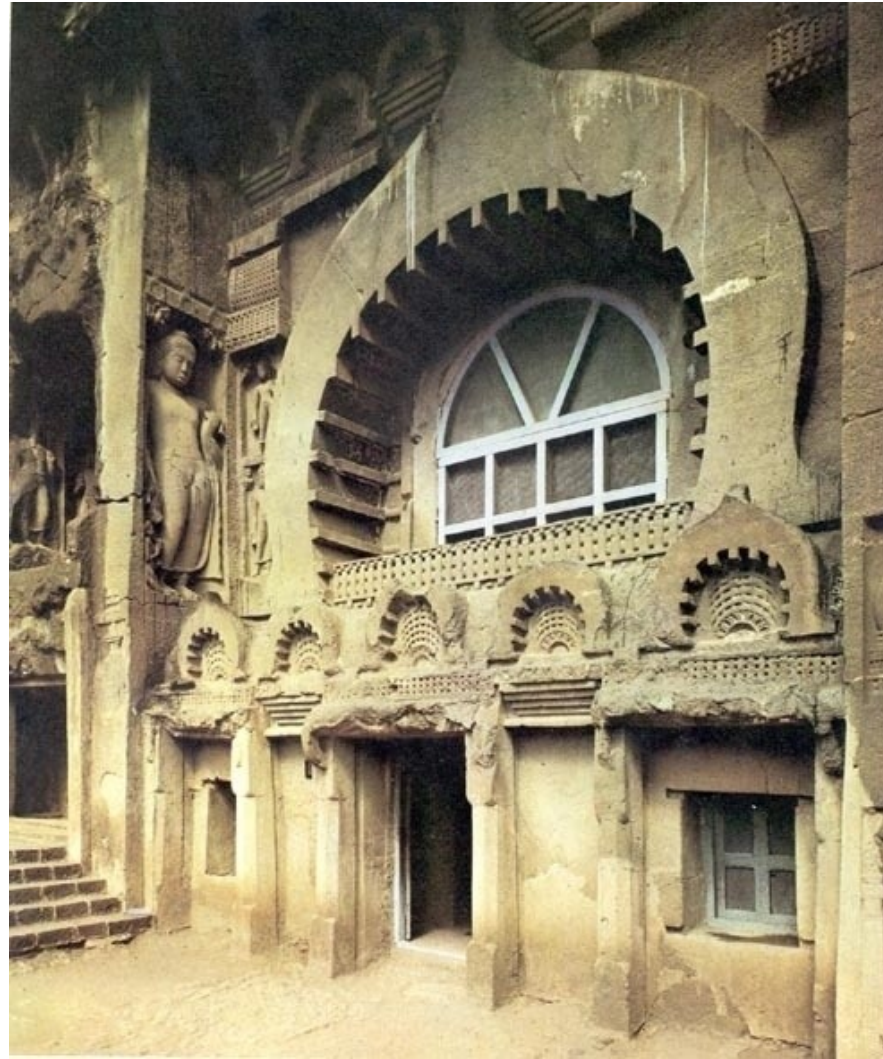


# Exterior view, Ajanta cave monastery

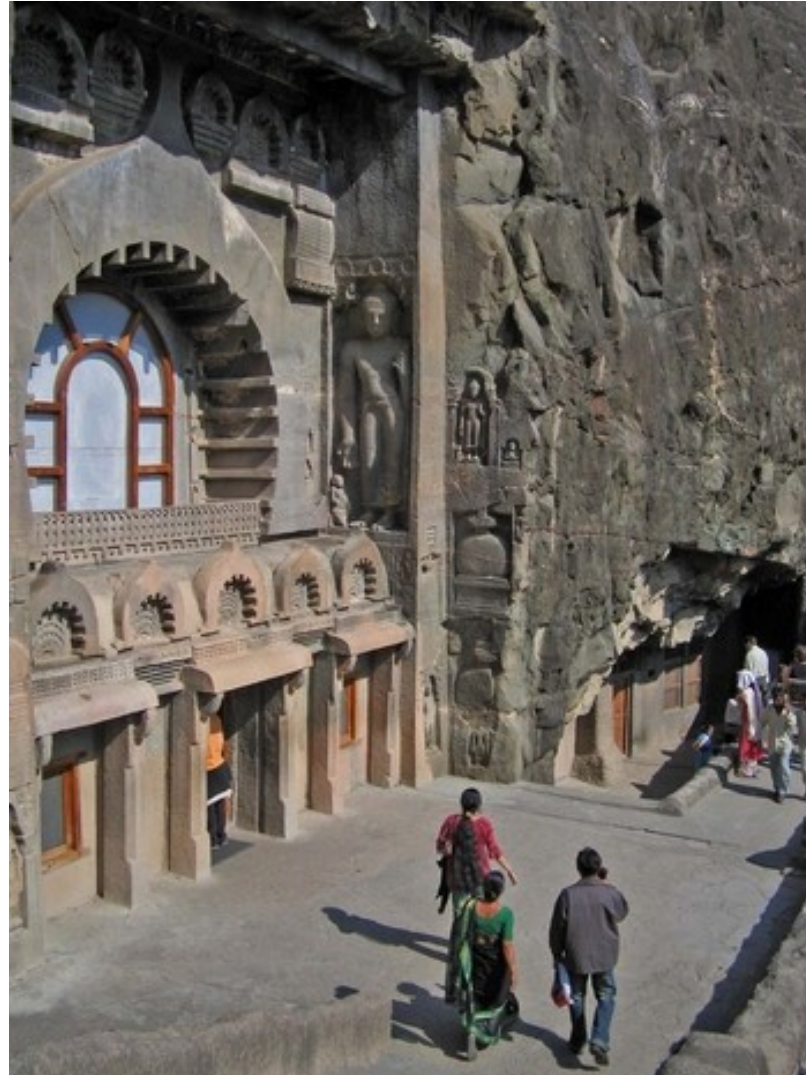




Entry to Buddhist caves at Ajanta, near Bombay in India. Caves were carved out to create monasteries, temples, and art by Buddhist monks in late Gupta era (5<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> c.)



# Visitors enter Ajanta





Wall painting at Ajanta, telling tale of King and Queen. 5th or 6th century CE.





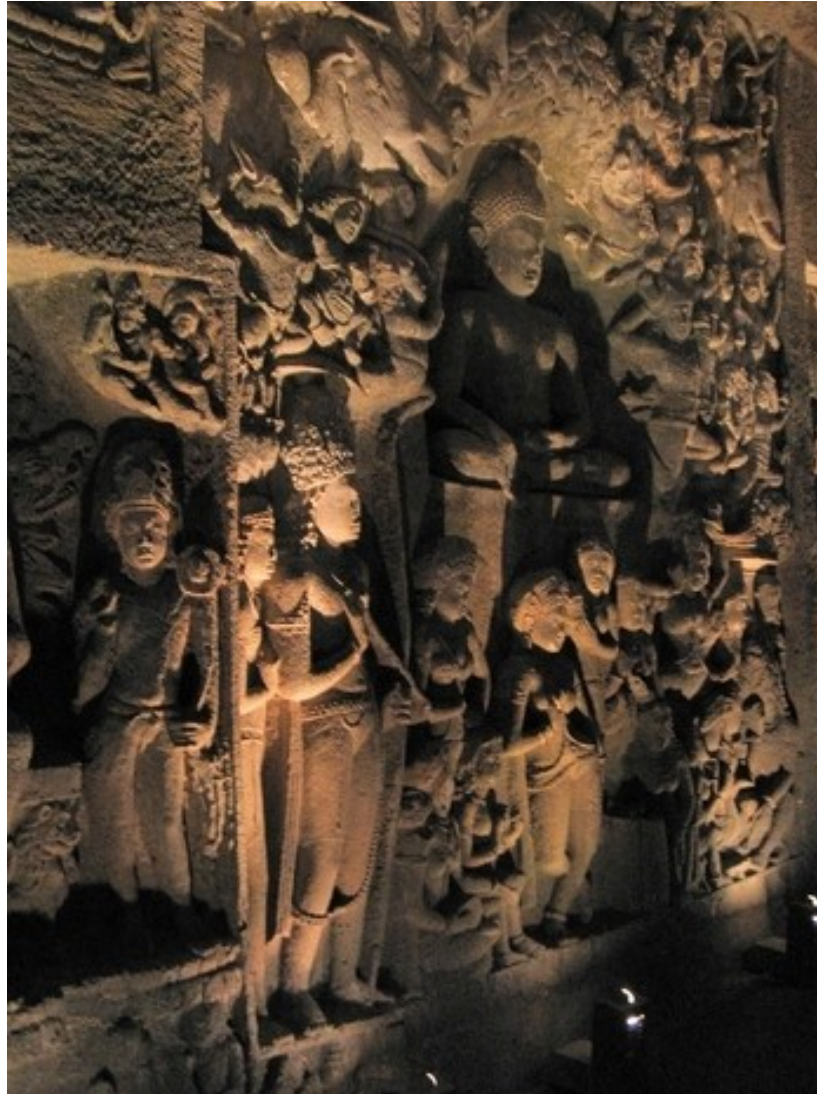
# Ajanta painting, Buddha on Lotus Throne



# Ajanta painting of Buddha and his first disciple, ANANDA



# Buddhist sculpture at Ajanta





Prayer hall, carved in Ajanta cave. Object in center is *stupa* (tomb for relics of the Buddha).





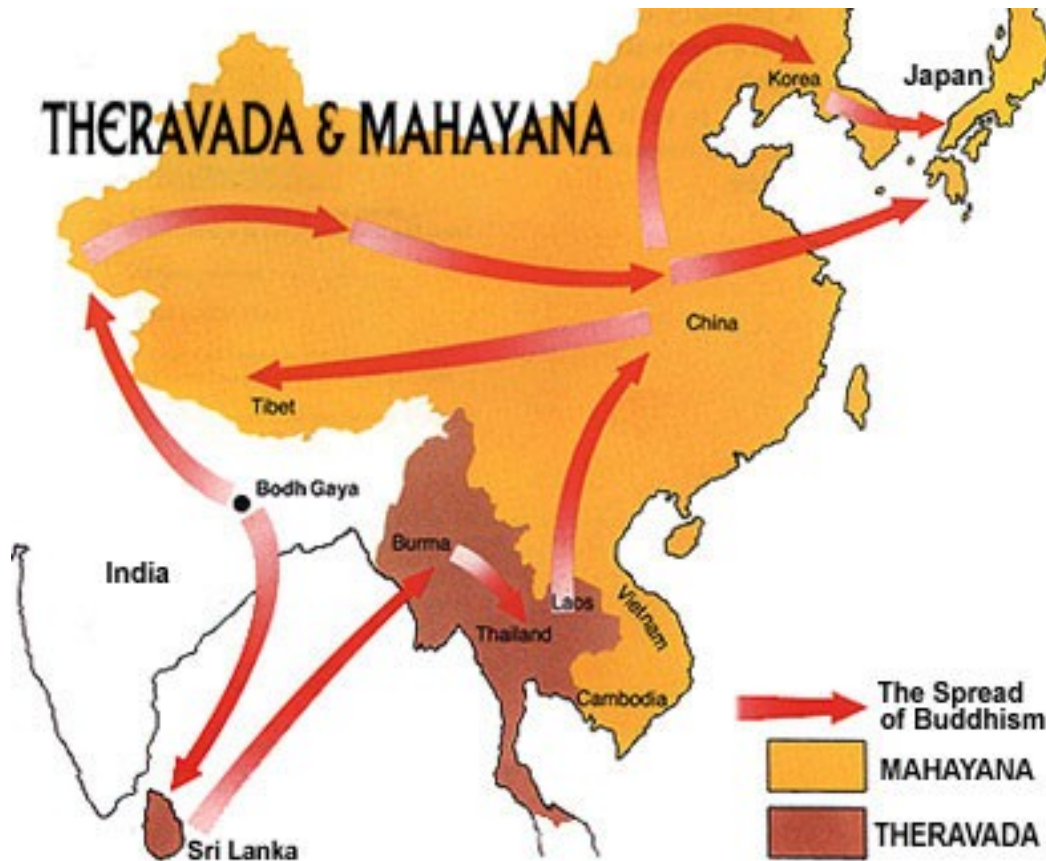
# Massive interior pillars at Ajanta



# Statue of sleeping Buddha



# Origins of Asian Religion (2)



- With Hinduism, the Sanskrit language and Hindu styles of worship spread to Burma, Thailand, Cambodia, Vietnam, Indonesia, etc. Buddhism would also come to these same countries.
- Buddhism was also brought north from India to Tibet, then China, Korea, Japan. In China, Buddhism blended with Taoism to become *Ch'an*, which became *Seon* in Korea, and *Zen* in Japan.







BUDDHISM IN DECLINE FROM 7TH CENTURY C.E., DISAPPEARS CA. 1200

SHAKYAMUNI LIVES IN THE REGION OF MAGADHA DURING 6-5TH CENTURIES B.C.E.

BUDDHISM ARRIVES ABOUT 2ND CENTURY B.C.E.

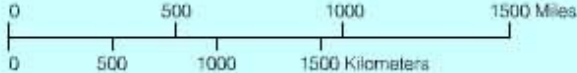
BUDDHISM TAKES HOLD IN TIBET 7TH CENTURY

BUDDHISM INFLUENTIAL FROM 1ST TO 8TH CENTURIES

BUDDHISM INTRODUCED IN CHINA 1ST CENTURY C.E.

BUDDHISM ARRIVES IN 4TH CENTURY C.E.

BUDDHISM ARRIVES IN 6TH CENTURY C.E.





Hinduism & Buddhism not good enough for  
you? **Try JAINISM!**  
The religion of absolute non-violence!



परस्परौपगृह्ये जीवनाम्

Live, Let Live and  
Help Others To Live

# Medieval Asia Timeline

(taken from World History class, perhaps useful here as well)

- **China:**
- **206 BCE - 220 CE: Han Dynasty** Unifies China, brings culture, Buddhism becomes popular, esp. "Pure Land" sect.
- **515:** Attacks of the *Huna* (the Huns) in NW India causes
- **220 - 586: Six Dynasties Period**
- **589 - 618: Sui Dynasty** attempts to restore centralized state.
- **618 - 907: Tang Dynasty** / as a result, up to 100 years of peace, examination system, unified law code, landscape painting.
- **907 - 1279: Song Dynasty** / Muslim invasions from Afghanistan led by Mahmud.
- **960 - 1234: Northern Song** / Muslim state in NW India. Rise of Neo-Confucianism.
- **1279 - 1368: Yuan Dynasty.**



# RELIGIONS OF CHINA



# Religion or Philosophy or Whaaaat??

- A confusing but very interesting feature of Chinese religions like Daoism & Confucianism is that they can be described as either *religions* or *philosophies* because in fact....they are both.
- **Whhhaaaattt??!!!?**
- They both provide ways of thinking about the world with distinctive concepts capable of elaboration: philosophy.
- They also provide ways for people to practice rituals and experience a connection to something greater than themselves: religion.





# Timeline of Ancient China

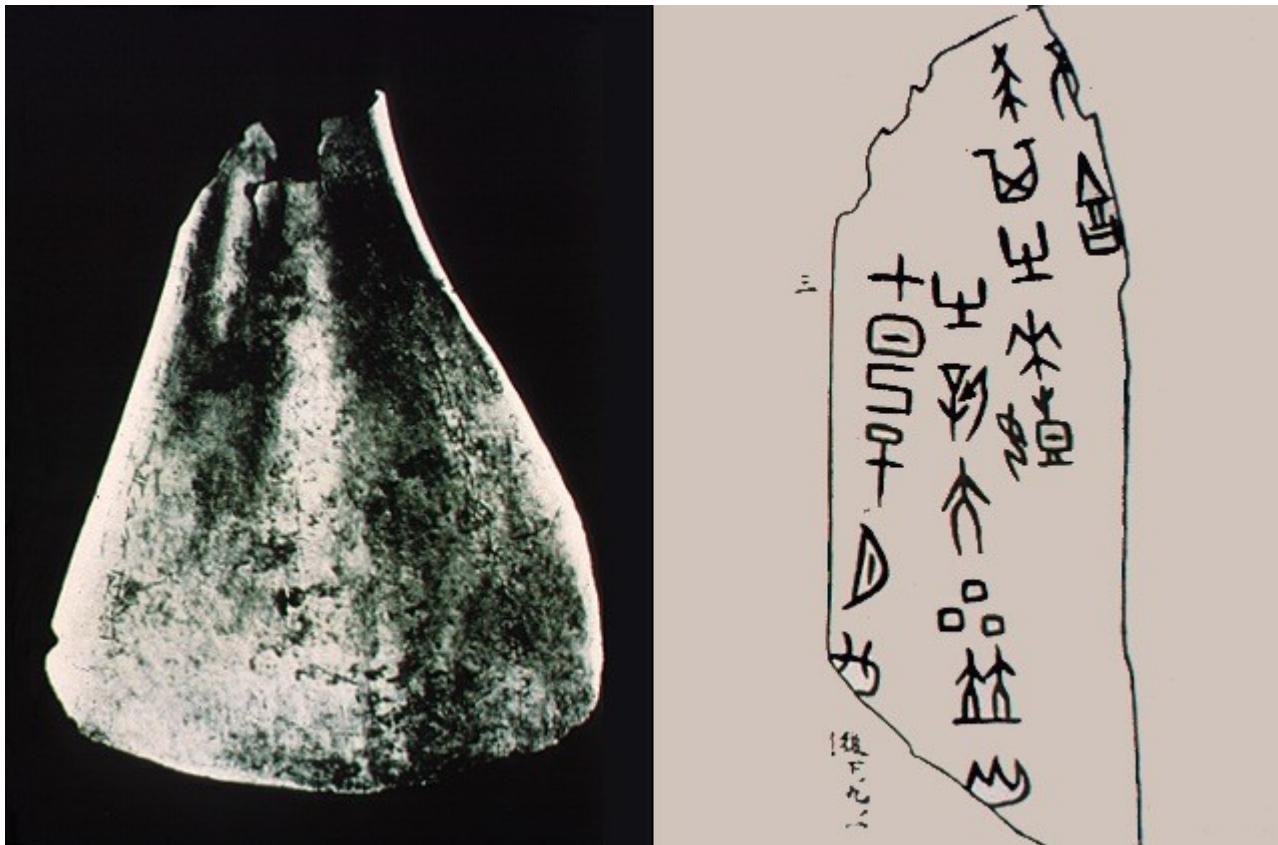
- **6500-2000 BCE: Neolithic** Zhou, from the west, overthrow the Shang in China, war. Idea of "Mandate of Heaven". Rise of agriculture, schools of Chinese philosophy: Confucianism, Taoism, different farming N/S
- **5000-3000 BCE: "Western" Zhou**
- **770-221 BCE: "Eastern" Zhou**
- China, elaborate pottery
- **403-221: Warring States Era** w/geometric designs in
- **221-206 BCE: Qin Dynasty** unites six states into Empire. Qin Emperor overthrown due to repressive policies, leading to rise of Han Dynasty. Which lasts from **206 BCE-220 CE**. Buddhism enters China and becomes major force.
- **3000-2000 BCE: Fusion of E/W cultures, oracle bone divination, metal for weapons, walled towns**
- **Pre-1600: Xia Dynasty** (legend), myths of 5 founders
- **1600-1027: Shang Dynasty**, in region around Huanghe. Bronze, writing, ritual, cities.



# Once again, the **Shang Dynasty** (1600-1027 BCE)



# Shang oracle bone, with right panel highlighting the writing carved into the bone



**Jiaguwen** (Chinese shell-and-bone script), Shang dynasty (c. 1600–1046 BCE); in the East Asian Library, Columbia University, New York





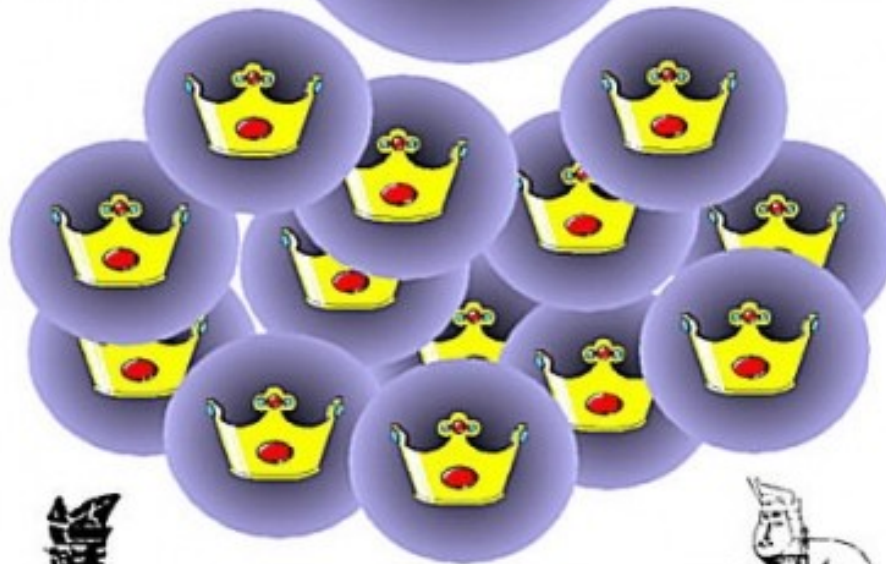
# Oracle bone, inscribed tortoise shell



World of  
Divine  
Ancestors



✦ Shangdi, the Lord-on-High 上帝



✦ Spirits of  
Past Kings,  
Now  
Regarded  
as Deities



World of Humans



✦ King and  
Aristocrats

# Oracle bone inscriptions from the village of Xiaotun, Henan province, China; Shang dynasty, 14th or 12th century BCE.





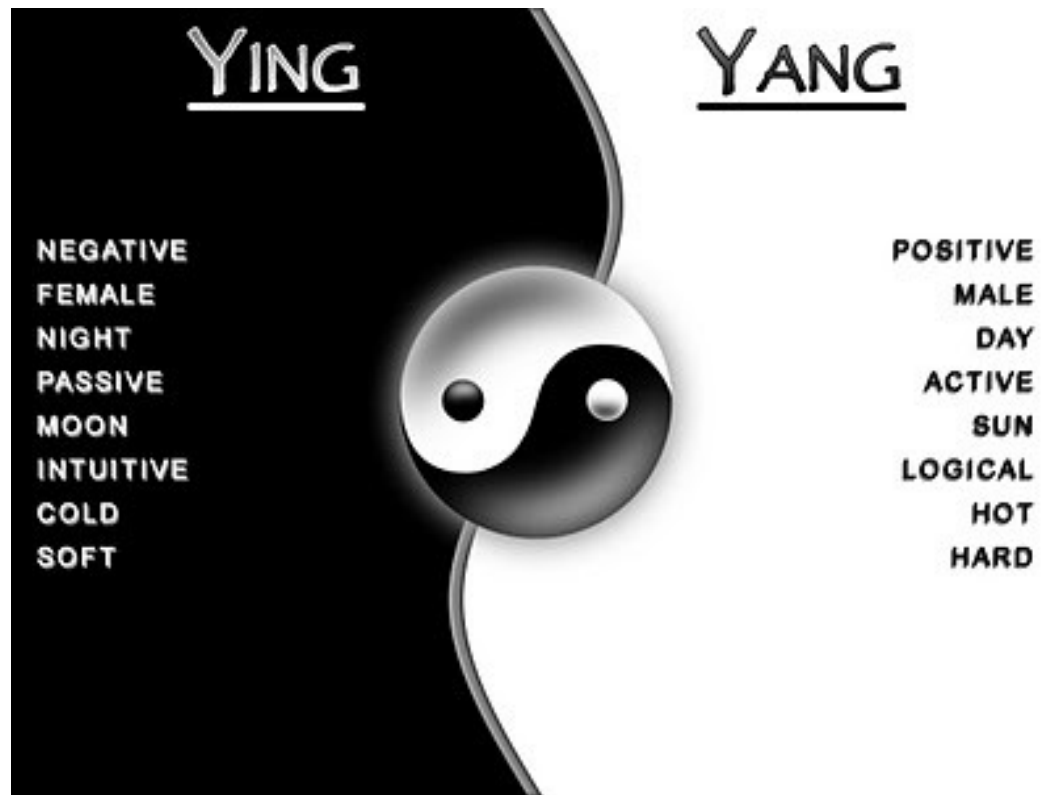
# Early Chinese writing on *oracle bones*, compared to modern Chinese script





# Beginning of **Yin-Yang** symbolism

(Note: image below has incorrect spelling of “Yin,” but other information is good.)



**Zhou (“Joe”) Dynasty (1027 to 256 BCE).** Here the phase of the Western Zhou; a later period is called the Eastern Zhou.



# Later(Eastern)Zhou Dynasty (770-256 BE)



# Bronze food vessel, early Western Zhou (11th century BCE) Shanghai Museum





# Bian Zhong (musical instruments/bells)

King Li Reign, Western Zhou (mid 9th century B.C.E)



# A poem from the *Shih Ching* (Book of Songs): *"King Wen is on High"*

- *King Wên is on High;*
  - *Oh! He shines in Heaven!*
  - *Zhou is an old people,*
  - *But its mandate is new.*
  - *The land of Zhou became illustrious,*
  - *Blessed by Heaven's Mandate.*
  - *King Wên ascends and descends*
  - *On God's left hand, on His right.*
  - ....
  - *May you never shame your ancestors,*
  - *But rather tend their inward power,*
  - *That for ever you may be linked to Heaven's charge*
  - *And bring to yourselves many blessings.*
- *Before Yin lost its army*
  - *It was well-linked to Heaven above.*
  - *In Yin you should see as in a mirror*
  - *That Heaven's high mandate is hard to keep.*
  - ....
  - *The mandate is not easy to keep.*
  - *Do not bring ruin on yourselves.*
  - *Send forth everywhere the light of your good fame;*
  - *Consider what Heaven did to the Yin.*
  - *High Heaven does its business*
  - *Without sound, without smell.*
  - *Make King Wên your example,*
  - *In whom all the peoples put their trust.*  
(Arthur Waley translation)
  - [http://web.cn.edu/kwheeler/chinese\\_poetry\\_kingwen.html](http://web.cn.edu/kwheeler/chinese_poetry_kingwen.html)



# Two short poems from *the Book of Songs* with advice on love:

## • ***Impromptu***

- *Keep away from sharp swords*
- *Don't go near a lovely woman.*
- *A sharp sword too close will wound your hand;*
- *Woman's beauty too close will wound your life!*
- *The danger of the road is not in the distance;*
- *Ten yards is far enough to break a wheel.*
- *The peril of love is not in loving too often;*
- *A single evening can leave its wound in the soul.*

## • ***The East Wind Sighs***

- *The East wind sighs, the fine rains come:*
- *Beyond the pool of water-lilies, the noise of faint thunder.*
- *A gold toad gnaws the lock. Open it. Burn the incense.*
- *A tiger of jade pulls the rope. Draw from the well and escape.*
- *Chia's daughter peeped through the screen when Han the clerk was young.*
- *The goddess of the river left her pillow for the great Prince of Wei.*
- *Never let your heart open with the spring flowers:*
- *One inch of love is an inch of ashes.*



# A poem from the Book of Songs on the passing of a kingdom:

- **Song of the Bronze Statue**
- *Gone that emperor of Maoling,*
- *Rider through the autumn wind,*
- *Whose horse neighs at night*
- *And has passed without trace by dawn.*
- *The fragrance of autumn lingers still*
- *On those cassia trees by painted galleries,*
- *But on every palace hall the green moss grows.*
- *As Wei's envoy sets out to drive a thousand li [1](#)*
- *The keen wind at the East Gate stings the statue's eyes. . . .*

*From the ruined palace  
he brings nothing forth  
But the moonshaped disk of Han, [2](#)  
True to his lord,  
he sheds leaden tears, [3](#)  
And withered orchids by the Xianyang Road  
See the traveler on his way.  
Ah, if Heaven had a feeling heart, it,  
too, must grow old! [4](#)  
He bears the disk off alone  
By the light of the desolate moon,  
The town far behind him,  
muted its lapping waves.*

[http://web.cn.edu/kwheeler/chinese\\_poetry\\_bronze.html](http://web.cn.edu/kwheeler/chinese_poetry_bronze.html)





Food vessel, early Western Zhou  
(11th century BCE) Shanghai Museum



# Ox-shaped bronze wine vessel (early 6th century BCE)



# Detail of bronze water vessel (early 6th century BCE)



## Ox-shaped **Zun** (wine vessel)

Late Zhou dynasty (early 6th century-476 B.C.)

This *Zun* was shaped like a real ox, strong and steady. There are three holes on its back. The middle hole can serve a small wine pot then hot water can be poured into the hollow belly from rest two holes. This might have been used to warm wine.







© Marilyn Shea, 2005

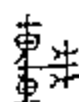
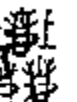
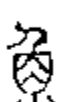
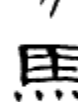
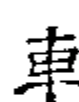
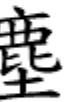
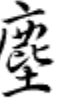
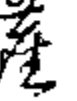
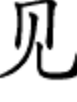


The [Shanghai Museum](#) is shaped like an ancient bronze vessel of the Shang Dynasty period!



# Evolution of Chinese characters

The images below illustrates how a number of Chinese characters have changed over time from their earliest known pictographic forms, to the versions used today.

|                                        | horse                                                                               | cart                                                                                | fish                                                                                | dust                                                                                 | see                                                                                   |                                                                                                  |
|----------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Oracle bone script<br>甲骨文 (jiǎ gǔ wén) |    |    |    |    |    | The Oracle bone script was used during the Shang or Yin Dynasty (c. 1400-1200 BC)                |
| Bronze script<br>金文 (jīn wén)          |    |    |    |    |    | The Bronze script was used during the Zhou Dynasty (c. 1100 - 256 BC)                            |
| Large Seal script<br>大篆 (dà zhuàn)     |    |    |    |    |    | The Large Seal script was used during the Zhou Dynasty (c. 1100 - 256 BC)                        |
| Small Seal script<br>小篆 (xiǎo zhuàn)   |    |    |    |    |    | The Small Seal script was used during the Qin Dynasty (221-207 BC)                               |
| Clerical script<br>隸書 (lì shū)         |    |    |    |    |    | The Clerical and Standard scripts first appeared during the Han Dynasty (207 BC - 220 AD).       |
| Standard script<br>楷書 (kǎi shū)        |    |    |    |    |    |                                                                                                  |
| Running script<br>行書 (xíng shū)        |   |   |   |   |   | The Running script has been used for handwritten Chinese since the Han Dynasty.                  |
| Grass script<br>草書 (cǎo shū)           |  |  |  |  |  | The Grass script is the Chinese equivalent of shorthand and has been used since the Han Dynasty. |
| Simplified script<br>简体字 (jiǎntǐ zì)   |  |  |  |  |  | The Simplified script has been used in the P.R.C. since 1949. It is also used in Singapore.      |
| hànyǔ pīnyīn<br>汉语拼音                   | mǎ                                                                                  | chē                                                                                 | yú                                                                                  | chén                                                                                 | jiàn                                                                                  | Hanyu pinyin has been used in the P.R.C. since 1958.                                             |
| zhùyīn fúhào<br>注音符号                   | ㄇㄚˇ                                                                                 | ㄔㄜ                                                                                  | ㄩˊ                                                                                  | ㄔㄣˊ                                                                                  | ㄐㄧㄢˋ                                                                                  | Zhuyin fuhao was developed in China in 1913 and is still used in Taiwan.                         |



## Jade Seal Graved with Characters "Wu Yi"

Western Han dynasty. In Shanghai Museum, there are more than one hundred precious jade seals in the Qin and Han dynasties. This seal was engraved in the form of particular "Niao Chong Script", which takes strokes imitating shapes of bird, worm, fish and even some abstract patterns.

This peculiar script first appeared on bronze vessels and became popular in the Wuyue area during the period from the Spring and Autumn to the Warring States periods.





## **clay STAMPED with characters "He Jian Wang Xi"**

Western Han dynasty. Before the time when paper was invented and widely used, various documents were written on bamboo or wooden slips. These documents and goods were delivered with sealed marks to avoid illicit opening.

Sealed clay is a round piece retaining seal characters. In Shanghai Museum.



# Warring States Period (~481-221 BCE)

(Warning: LIVING IN CHINA IN THIS PERIOD could be **VERY HAZARDOUS** for your health!)



# Schools of Philosophy in Ancient China (I)

- **Confucianism**
  - Key Writing: *Lunyu* (The Analects)
  - Sayings of Kong Fuzi
  - Begins with Kong Fuzi
  - (When Confucius, 551-479 BCE, thought of how you may emulate him. When you see one who is unworthy, examine yourself."
  - "When you do not wish done to yourself, do not do to others."
  - Promoted values of hierarchy, social order and relationships, respect for elders and education
  - To be able under all circumstances to practice five things constitutes perfect virtue; these five things are gravity, generosity of soul, sincerity, earnestness and kindness."
  - Not interested in the supernatural
  - Key terms: *ren* (humaneness, benevolence), *li* (proper conduct, ritual), *xiao* (filial piety, family loyalty), *junzi* (ideal person, high moral character, gentleman-scholar, fit to be leader)
  - *Five Relationships*: subordinate female to male, younger to older



# Key Teachings of Confucius

- The “**Five Relationships**”:

- **Jen:** Father/son: kindness to the father and obedient devotion in the son
- **Li:** proper behavior, which could mean proper performance of a ritual; showing courtesy in all situations; embodying dignity in oneself, respecting it in others.  
**Elder brother/younger brother:** Gentleness in the eldest brother and humility in the younger
- **Chun-tzu:** the ideal person, a gentleman and scholar, well-educated, well-behaved, and kindly to others. **Note the emphasis on education.**
  - **Husband/wife:** Righteous behavior in the husband and obedience in the wife
- Overall **emphasis on cultivating social order & harmony.**
  - **Rulers/subjects:** Benevolence in rulers and loyalty of ministers and subjects
  - **Friend-Friend:** a relationship between equals, the only one of these five relationships that is NOT hierarchical





# Schools of Philosophy in Ancient China (II)

- **Key Writing:** *The Daodejing* (Tao Te Ching) and *The Zhuangzi*
- **Daoism** (also *Taoism*)
- **Daoist sayings:**
- Begins with teachings of Lao-Tzu (=Lao Dai), 6<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> century BCE
- “When the man of high capacity hears about the Dao, he does his best to put it into practice. When the man of low capacity hears about the Dao, he laughs.”
- Mystical teachings emphasize harmony with nature, simplicity in life
- Opposed to Confucian idea of promoting social order through education and ethics, believing that natural order is superior
- The power that is most effective looks inadequate. The power that stands firmest looks flimsy. What is in its natural, pure state, looks faded.
- Believed in overall principle of universal order, *the Dao (Tao)*, that is beyond human understanding or description; something mystical + paradoxical
- The Sage arrives without going, sees all without looking, does nothing, yet achieves all.
- Poetic metaphors used for following the Dao: “the uncarved block, going with the flow”



# THE DAOIST SAGES SPEAK

- Key Writing: *The Daodejing* (Tao Te Ching) and *The Zhuangzi*
- Daoist sayings:
- “When the man of high capacity hears about the Dao, he does his best to put it into practice. When the man of low



- “The power that is most effective looks inadequate. The power that stands firmest looks flimsy. What is in its natural, pure state looks faded. Dao is hidden and nameless, yet Dao alone



# Two Sides of Daoism

- Popular mystical ideas for promoting health and longevity have shared a tradition with Chinese medicine (herbs, elixirs, acupuncture, etc.)
- Love of the natural, the quiet, the simple
- Disciplines such as T'ai-Chi and Feng-Sui
- Balance between principles of yin and yang,
- Mythology of immortals, mighty beings, who female and male, hot and cold, etc.
- Attain eternal life through above-noted practices
- A sense that the truth is beyond words



# Schools of Philosophy in Ancient China (III): Further Extensions of Confucianism & Daoism

## Dispute and Successors

- to Link the Philosophical Daoism focusing on harmony with nature, Popular Daoism emphasized magical beliefs and the search for health, long life and immortality, with belief in Immortal Sages with superhuman powers
- (1) Laozi (490-391 BCE): taught that morality not sufficient basis for morality; believed in universality, a move
  - (2) Mencius/Menzi (372-289 BCE): believed that human nature basically good, but must be cultivated by government and education; cruel or incompetent gov't loses "Mandate of Heaven"
  - Popular Daoism justified related to Chinese meditation practices like Tai Chi and Qi Gong (herbal medicine and alchemy)
  - (3) Xunzi (310-221 BCE): human nature bad, need for gov't control





# A **Third** Chinese Philosophy: **Legalism**



- School of philosophy first developed by Shang Yang (390-338 BCE) minister of the kingdom of Qin.
- Legalism emphasized strict law and order: rules and regulations for all areas of life, harshly enforced with brutal efficiency.
- **Social Order through force and punishment**

# Indigenous Religions of Asia

- From Japan is **Shinto** for many Asian countries, with elements similar to Shinto
- Polytheistic worship of *kami*: representing forces of nature, spirits, of ancestors and nature
- Reverence for ancestors
- Exuberant expression in the arts
- Ethics of cheerfulness, honesty and clarity



# Religious Blending in Southeast Asia

- The earliest to be influenced largely to Islam population in the world, Southeast Asia. it
- also absorbed waves of Hindu and Buddhism influence.
- The island of Borneo Indonesia remains a Hindu region.



# Religious Blending in Japan (1)

- Japan is a unique place where substantial religious blending has taken place.
- Shinto, the indigenous faith, and Buddhism, which arrived in the 6th century, have coexisted and blended. Shinto focuses on the fertility and growth of the land, while Buddhism addresses issues of death and the afterlife.
- This blending began around 500 CE. Shinto is used for weddings and blessings of children; Buddhism for funerals and respecting ancestors.





# *Tori* gateway of Shinto shrine



# Buddhist graveyard in Nagasaki, right next to an apartment building

(photo by Strmiska; 2000 or 2001)





# Buddhist tomb, with friendly guardian in front







(photo by Strmiska; 2000 or 2001)















## Religious Blending in Japan (2)

- Christianity came to Japan in the 16<sup>th</sup> century, with Portuguese and Spanish missionaries, with Confucianism and Shintoism as the dominant religions.
- At first the new religion was tolerated and made ancestors and education becoming key values.
- Chan Buddhism, however, was suppressed in the form of Zen Buddhism, but blended nicely with the love of nature and Shinto in Nagasaki.





End of the Unit:  
**Amaterasu** (Shinto SUN  
GODDESS) Bids You Farewell!

